

Listing of Claims:

1. Claims 1-19 (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) A method for issuing notification messages to users of a computer network, the method comprising:

receiving, at a notification message distribution component, an alert message generated by one of multiple different computer applications, the alert message indicating that a current value of a predetermined variable is in a predetermined relation to a reference value;

creating, within the a notification message distribution component, [[a]] one or more distribution lists of a first group of users to receive notification messages pertaining to a specified at least one of the multiple different business computer applications, [[the]] each distribution list being generated, without requiring users to select notification messages they are to receive, by identifying, from stored application-to-role assignment information and from stored user-to-role assignment information, one or more users having a pre-assigned role that is a pre-assigned role for the specified one business computer application who share in common at least one role with one or more of the multiple different computer applications, wherein the stored application-to-role assignment information and the stored user-to-role assignment information define which of the multiple different business computer applications a user is allowed to access;

receiving, at the notification message distribution component, a message indicating that a current value of a predetermined variable in the specified one business computer application is in a predetermined relation to a reference value; and

issuing, from the notification message distribution component, a first notification message to a communication device corresponding to each user in [[the]] a first group of users, the first group of users consisting of users in one of the one or more distribution lists that share at least one role with the computer application that generated the alert message.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
issuing, from the notification message distribution component, a ~~further~~ second notification message to a communication device corresponding to a further user outside the first group of users in the event that during a predetermined time period no user from the first group has confirmed reception of the first notification message.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein reception of the first notification message is confirmed when one or more users from the first group returns a receipt message.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising assigning a unique identification number to the first notification message such that the communication device returns the identification number as part of the receipt message.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the ~~further~~ second notification message has a description portion to indicate being the ~~further~~ second notification.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the further user has a supervisory relationship with the first group of users.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the first notification message is issued to the communication device such that the communication device visually presents the first notification message.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the communication device is a personal computer with electronic mail.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the communication device visually presents the first notification message as a hyperlink to a full version of the first notification message.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the distribution list is created after detecting that the current value of the predetermined variable in the ~~business~~ computer application is in the predetermined relation to a reference value.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the application-to-role assignment information includes an alert-type-to-role assignment.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising receiving subscription requests to selectively add or remove individual users to or from the distribution list.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program configured to issue notification messages, the medium or signal comprising one or more code segments configured to:

receive, at a notification message distribution component, an alert message generated by one of multiple different computer applications, the alert message indicating that a current value of a predetermined variable is in a predetermined relation to a reference value;

store, within the a notification message distribution component, ~~[[a]]~~ one or more distribution lists ~~of a first group~~ of users to receive notification messages pertaining to a ~~specified~~ at least one of the multiple different ~~business~~ computer applications, ~~[[the]]~~ each distribution list being generated, ~~without requiring users to select notification messages they are to receive,~~ by identifying, from stored application-to-role assignment information and from stored user-to-role assignment information, one or more users having a pre-assigned role that is a pre-assigned role for the specified one business computer application who share in common at least one role with one or more of the multiple different computer applications, wherein the stored application-to-role assignment information and the stored user-to-role assignment information define which of the multiple different ~~business~~ computer applications a user is allowed to access

~~receive, at the notification message distribution component, a message indicating that a current value of a predetermined variable in the specified one business computer application is in a predetermined relation to a reference value; and~~

issue, from the notification message distribution component, a first notification message to a communication device corresponding to each user in ~~[[the]]~~ a first group of users, the first group of users consisting of users in one of the one or more distribution lists that share at least one role with the computer application that generated the alert message.

33. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 32, wherein the one or more code segments are further configured to:

issue, from the notification message distribution component, a ~~further~~ second notification message to a communication device corresponding to a further user outside the first group of users in the event that during a predetermined time period no user from the first group has confirmed reception of the first notification message.

34. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 33, wherein reception of the first notification message is confirmed when one or more users from the first group returns a receipt message.

35. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 33, wherein the one or more code segments are further configured to:

assign a unique identification number to the first notification message such that the communication device returns the identification number as part of the receipt message.

36. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 33, wherein the ~~further~~ second notification message has a description portion to indicate being the ~~further~~ second notification.

37. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 33, wherein the further user has a supervisory relationship with the first group of users.

38. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 32, wherein the first notification message is issued to the communication device such that the communication device visually presents the first notification message.

39. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 38, wherein the communication device is a personal computer with electronic mail.

40. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 38, wherein the communication device visually presents the first notification message as a hyperlink to a full version of the first notification message.

41. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 32, wherein the distribution list is stored after detecting that the current value of the predetermined variable ~~in the business application~~ is in the predetermined relation to a reference value.

42. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 32, wherein the application-to-role assignment information includes an alert-type-to-role assignment.

43. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 32, wherein the one or more code segments are further configured to:

selectively add or remove individual users to or from the distribution list based on subscription requests.

44. (New) A method for issuing notification messages to users of a computer network, the method comprising:

receiving, at a notification message distribution component, an alert message generated by one of multiple different computer applications, the alert message indicating that a current value of a predetermined variable is in a predetermined relation to a reference value;

creating, within the notification message distribution component, one or more distribution lists of users to receive notification messages pertaining to at least one of the multiple different computer applications, each distribution list being generated, by identifying, from stored application-to-role assignment information and from stored user-to-role assignment information, one or more users who share in common at least one role with one or more of the multiple different computer applications, wherein the stored application-to-role assignment information

and the stored user-to-role assignment information define which of the multiple different computer applications a user is allowed to access;

issuing, from the notification message distribution component, a first notification message to a communication device corresponding to each user in a first group of users, the first group of users consisting of users in one of the one or more distribution lists that share at least one role with the computer application that generated the alert message;

wherein the one or more distribution lists may be created before, or after, the notification message distribution component receives an alert message.